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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. V | FRIDAY, MAY 5, 1944 | No. 35

Only a SYNCHRONISED BLOW can crush Hitlerite Germany

OUR great Allies the United States of America and Great Britain are making considerable contributions to the Red Army's successes by holding the front in Italy against the German troops from us. The Allies are supplying us with very valuable strategic raw material and armaments and are subjecting military objectives in Germany to systematic bombing, thus undermining Germany's military might

AS a result of its successful offensive the Red Army has emerged at our State frontiers over a distance of more than 400 kilometers (250 miles) having liberated from the German-Fascist yoke more than three-quarters of occupied Soviet territory. The task before us now is to clear our entire land from Fascist invaders, and restore the State frontiers of the Soviet Union along all lines from the Black Sea to the Barents Sea

THE German Army can now be likened to a wounded beast, which is forced to crawl away to its lair—Germany—there to heal its wounds But the wounded beast in its lair does not cease to be dangerous

Marshal STALIN

IN order to eliminate the menace of enslavement from our country and the countries allied to us, it is imperative that the wounded German beast be hotly pursued and finished off in its own lair

WHILE pursuing the enemy we must liberate from German bondage our brother Poles and Czechoslovaks and other people of Western Europe allied to us who are under the heel of Hitlerite Germany. It is obvious that this task is more difficult than the expulsion of German troops from the boundaries of the Soviet Union

IT can only be accomplished by a joint approach by the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States of America, by combined blows from the east by our armies, and from the west by the armies of our Allies

THERE can be no doubt that only by such a synchronised blow can Hitlerite Germany be completely crushed

Marshal STALIN, in a message on the eve of May Day celebrations

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[NOTE.—*The summary of news and comments contained in the* MADRAS WAR REVIEW *generally relate to events and statements published till Wednesday, every week.*]

GREATEST MILITARY OPERATION AHEAD

"We have in front of us the greatest military operation upon which either of our countries, or perhaps any country in all history was ever engaged. Although the Germans have to protect a coast line stretching from the north of Norway to the Pyrenees, and can only guess where our blow is most likely to fall, they know it is coming somewhere. They have had many months to put up formidable fortifications. They have garrisoned them with many divisions of well-trained men.

"We can be sure they have neglected nothing human ingenuity can suggest to strengthen their defence. They will certainly not let us land or advance after we have landed without hard and bitter fighting."

LORD HALIFAX, *British Ambassador in the United States of America, in his address to Charleston Chamber of Commerce, on Tuesday.*

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JAPAN'S WAR POWER CRIPPLED

"The Japanese Air Force and above all Japanese merchant shipping is being destroyed at a rate which by itself will cripple Japan's ability to continue the war and she has had to witness the co-prosperity sphere turning into a sphere of collapse.

"When Germany is beaten, few in Britain will not feel a holiday spirit. If it lasts for more than two years, that holiday spirit is treachery to our Empire and to our Allies. I know that we have the stability, firmness, foresight and vision to avoid any slackening when the war with Germany is won."

—CAPTAIN OLIVER LYTTELTON, *Minister of Production, in a speech at Aldershot, on Saturday.*

❖

THEY ARE NOT SUPERMEN

"The Japanese fighting spirit seems to be unimpaired, but they are not supermen. They are more formidable if they are allowed to develop their own plans unimpeded, but if you throw the spanner into the works, they are not good at getting the works going again."

LIEUT.-GENERAL EDWARD PUTTICK, *the Chief of General Staff of the New Zealand Military Forces, in a statement in London, on Monday.*

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INVASION: INTERLOCKED STRATEGY

TWO notable pronouncements have been made this week, both on May Day—one by Mr. Churchill at the Conference of Dominion Prime Ministers, and the other by M. Stalin in an Order of the Day. Mr. Churchill in his speech referred to the solidarity of the British Commonwealth and Empire and said that they had, fighting on their side, very powerful Allies—" the mighty forces of the Soviet Union and the great republic of the United States." M. Stalin, in a May Day message, acknowledged the valuable help given by " our great Allies, the United States of America and Great Britain " and said that they were " making considerable contributions to the Red Army's successes by holding the front in Italy against the Germans and by diverting a considerable part of German troops from us," as well as by " supplying us with very valuable strategic raw material and armaments " and " subjecting military objectives in Germany to systematic bombing, thus undermining Germany's military might." These statements from two of the leaders of the United Nations once again underline and emphasize the essential unity of the Allies in regard to their common objective and the means to be employed to achieve that objective.

Air Invasion of Europe

ONE of them is the bombing of military targets in Germany and occupied Europe. This has been systematically and persistently going on by day and by night. During the last two weeks and more, particularly, these bombing raids have greatly intensified : they are the great pre-invasion air bombardment of Axis Europe. Vital rail centres and important factories in France and Belgium and war industries in Germany have been the main targets. What is considered to be the most furious night and day air bombardment of the war took place last week (April 27), when about 5,000 bombers and fighters carried out a grand assault on Europe and dropped about 8,000 tons of bombs. For the first time, United States Air Forces in Western Europe launched two major attacks in a single day. Two days afterwards (April 29), United States heavy bombers attacked in very great strength industrial and military targets in Berlin shortly before noon. This assault is described as the greatest daylight blow of the war at the German Capital.

THE air invasion of Hitler's European fortress is a prelude to the land invasion. " If you want to forecast the progress of the war, " said Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Tedder sometime ago, " watch the bombing pattern." If we closely study the " bombing pattern " of the last few weeks, we find that in addition to attacking industrial targets in Germany, particularly factories producing aircraft and aircraft component parts, Allied bombers are devoting special attention to airfields, communication centres and unspecified military objectives on the Channel coast—in Northern France, Belgium and Western Germany. These attacks on communication centres show that the ground is being prepared for the great Battle of Europe—the Invasion, or the Second Front. That the Second Front is not a new thing but one already in being was well stressed by the great Soviet leader six months ago (November 8, 1943), M. Stalin said : " Now the Allies are determined to deal decisive blows against the enemy ; German industrial centres are being bombed. Thus our efforts are being facilitated. This is something like a Second Front.

The Wounded Beast

IN his May Day message, M. Stalin refers to the manner in which the final blow against Germany should be struck. He compares the German Army to a wounded beast which is crawling away to its lair to lick its wounds, and says, " in order to eliminate the menace of enslavement from our country and the countries allied to us, it is imperative that the wounded German beast be hotly pursued and finished off in its own lair." M. Stalin emphasizes the fact that this " can only be accomplished by a joint approach by the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States of America, by combined blows from the east by our armies and from the west by the armies of our Allies," and that " only by such a synchronized blow can Hitlerite Germany be completely crushed." From the east, the Soviet forces advanced with great rapidity and pursued the enemy far beyond the frontiers of Russia. After the capture of Tiraspol and Odessa, Red Army forces have crossed the lower Dniester at several points. Marshal Koniev's troops have swept across the middle Pruth, crossed the Sereth and are in the foothills of the Carpathian mountains.

THE position of the forces under the German General, von Kleist, is very uncomfortable indeed. He is faced with the difficult task of extricating the German Sixth Army and the Rumanian satellite troops and get behind the prepared Galatz line. He has to prevent Marshal Koniev's double-thrust between the Carpathian foothills and the Sereth river and between the Pruth and the Dniester, and at the same time ward off General Halinovsky who is pursuing the German and Rumanian divisions closely from the Odessa area. He must, at any cost, prevent the Russians from breaking the Galatz line, for on it depends the security of Bucharest, the Ploesti oil fields and Central Rumania.

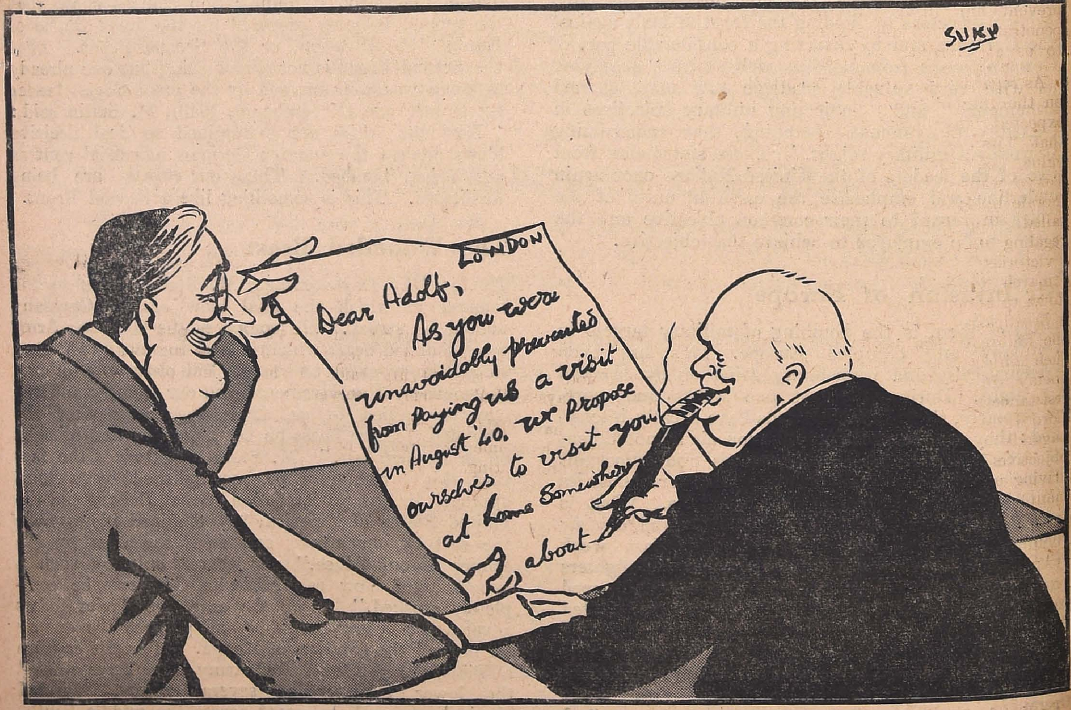
AS for von Manstein, the Russian capture of Tarnopol promises to bring trouble, but he has the advantage of good communications in the rear and has been reinforced by fresh troops. His counter-attacks at Stanislawow did not come as a surprise; it was expected that he would do it when the advancing Red Army paused to get its second wind. Now the area around Stanislawow is the most sensitive spot. If the Russians break through this to Lwow, they are on the direct road to Germany.

The Lull before the Storm

NOW there is a lull—as usual the lull before the storm. Europe is on its toes expecting the "synchronized blow" both from the east and the west. The plan, the time, and the place for the assault from the west were discussed at the Teheran Conference, accepted by M. Stalin and co-ordinated with the Russian offensive.

THAT interlocking strategy is about to unfold itself as part of one great global plan to annihilate and destroy the colossal Fascist beast in the completest manner possible.

"WE ARE COMING"!



—*Specially drawn for the* MADRAS WAR REVIEW

RUNNING COMMENTARY

Indo-Burma Front—Battle for Communications

The first round in the battle for communications on the Indo-Burma front may be stated to be almost over. Hard fighting has been going on for more than a month, and the honours of the round go to the 14th Army, which has prevented all attempts of the enemy to capture Imphal and Kohima. In a review of the situation given on Saturday last, Lord LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN, Supreme Commander of South-East Asia, has indicated the trend of Allied operations which are taking the form of initially locating and pinning down the Japanese and preventing them from gaining full use of the roads. The Admiral draws attention to the fact that in considering the Allied campaign we must remember that the front stretches 800 miles from Arakan through the Chindwin and Hukawng valleys to Yunnan. In the dense jungle country the enemy has the advantage of interior lines of communications, and it is not easy to prevent him from undertaking deep penetrations with the troops available to us at present.

As regards the Japanese penetration on the Imphal front, it was not unexpected, and Lord LOUIS observes that "its aim was, partly, for the value of political propaganda." Tokyo wanted to stimulate Japanese morale by token successes, and it has failed. The Tokyo Radio which was regaling its listeners with boasts of "victories," "annihilations" and the "march to Delhi" has now come down to adopt an apologetic tone. In a broadcast on April 22, it reflected the failure of the Japanese to attain their objectives when it said, "The enemy are offering the most effective resistance against the Japanese forces." Lord LOUIS referred to political propaganda as part of the Japanese objective. The other part of their aim in driving into Manipur was to cut the main Allied communication lines which carry supplies to General STILWELL'S troops which are advancing into northern Burma.

* * *

Assam Fighting Part of Large Scheme of Operations

The fighting that is going on in Assam should be viewed in its proper perspective, for it is not an isolated front, but a part and parcel of the greater war that is going on in East Asia as a whole. This may be broadly surveyed as follows: In Burma itself the enemy has not succeeded in interrupting our main supply lines half as much as our troops have done against the Japanese communications leading to their hard-pressed forces defending Myitkyna. Here on the Assam front, as the Japanese troops advance further into the thick jungles, they have to depend more and more on supplies which have to reach them at great hazards, as the areas through which they have to be carried are open to our attacks on land and from the sea. As regards the sea, the attack on Sabang shows that we have other plans of adding to the worries of the enemy. The transfer of Admiral MOUNTBATTEN'S Headquarters to Ceylon and the presence of a large naval force in Indian waters clearly point to the fact that some plan of amphibious operations is under active consideration to supplement the fighting on land. As regards the Pacific the Allied forces are drawing closer and closer to the Philippines. Thus the fighting in the Imphal-Kohima area fits into a pattern of a large scheme of operations against Japan.

A BALLADE AGAINST EXTRAVAGANT EXPECTATIONS

(*By* R.G.)

To throw a ray of lig' t athwart the gloom
  Of Armageddon and the dire mellay
In which so many brave men face their doom
  In stopping Hitler and his little way
  Of grabbing what he wants—I sing, or say,
A hopeful piece, and write it down in ink.
  We'll win the war— But not, I fear, to-day.
It will not be so easy as you think.

Above our heads the Lig tnings dive and zoom,
  And Japanese seem very far away.
Much nearer home increasing taxes loom
  Exceeding high, and deuced hard to pay.*
  But even if Sir Jeremy should flay
Your money-bags and wallets, do not shrink
  But save what you have left, and love Sir J.
(It will not be so easy as you think).

In India's land the great words buzz and boom
  And make the issues cloudier every day.
If, masters, you had time enough and room
  (As Marvell might have put it), you might play
  Securely with your Everlasting Nay.
But if the horse you water will not drink,
  Will you persuade him with a donkey's bray?—
It will not be so easy as you think.

ENVOY

Dear Sir, you had an offer yesterday
  Which you refused with something like a wink.
You thought you could do better — and you may;
  But will it be so easy as you think?

POSTSCRIPT

When war is ended, even by the Cooum
  (Where bureaucrats are seldom known to stray
In flowery lands of Make-believe, or groom
  A Pegasus of fancies wild and gay)
  There will be plans of reconstruction—yea
There will be bright ideas to make you blink.
  But ere you prophets go galumphing—hey,
It will not be so easy as you think.

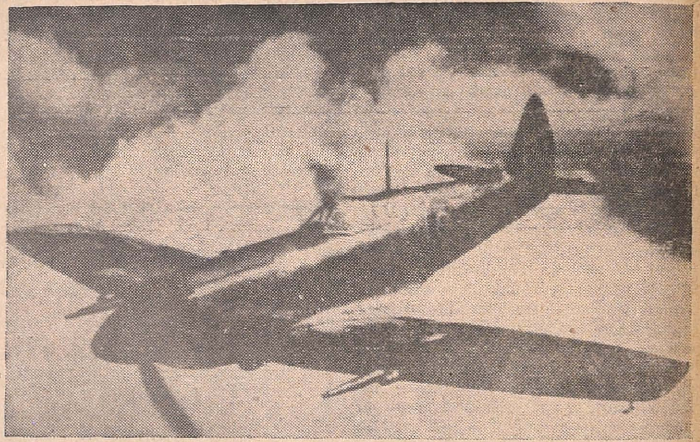
* *Note.*—
I hope my bank will overdrafts O.K.
And not insist that overdrafts should shrink.

BRITAIN PREPARES TO STRIKE AT HITLER'S EUROPEAN FORTRESS

By A. J. McWHINNIE

AFTER the Dunkirk evacuation of the British Army in 1940, Britain was woefully short of naval resources to resist any German attempt at landing on Britain's southern shores. No fewer than 70 British destroyers were damaged in the Dunkirk operations and were in the shipyards for repairs for several months. That must have left fewer than 100 destroyers to be stretched across the world for safeguarding the main trade routes.

In the English Channel itself fishing trawlers, hastily requisitioned from fishing ports, had to make up for the naval deficiency in the narrow waters across which invasion by German forces was expected hourly. While the official facts about Britain's naval disposition at that time have never been released I estimate that in that vital stretch of water there were fewer than a score of front-line destroyers and sloops helped out by armed trawlers available to meet a German invasion armada if it came.



ALLIES' NEW INVASION PLANE.—One of the first photographs of the new specialized fighter, Spitfire *XII. This aircraft is designed to give the best performance at low altitudes. Its fuselage has been strengthened to accommodate the heavy Rolls-Royce Griffon engine. Note the clipped wings and the modified tail unit.*

Yet, the German navy was very much more powerful then than it is to-day. It was known that preparations for invasion of Britain were almost complete. Large numbers of Rhine barges and big Dutch canal boats were ready on the opposite shores to be loaded with troops and escorted by the German navy across to the British Isles.

NAZIS WERE KEPT AT WATER'S EDGE

British naval men who took part in those anxious night patrols in the English Channel are now scattered around the world's oceans. But wherever they are they still talk, marvel and speculate about the way in which the German invaders were kept at the water's edge by a score of destroyers and sloops, armed fishing trawlers and a handful of motor torpedo boats.

In Britain to-day nobody questions that the Navy is well able, with its new strength and its old fighting traditions, to deliver assault craft, guns, tanks, trucks, food and supplies at the right place—or places—at the right times. All realize the dangers of making a landing. But they do not doubt that landings will be made.

The landings of Allied armies on Sicily, Italy, in North Africa, in India and Ceylon were accepted generally as the "Navy does it again."

THE "BIG SHOW"

Even the term "invasion" is rarely used in Britain to describe the coming biggest amphibious operation the world has ever known. Some talk about the "liberation of Europe", others about the "big attack on Hitler's Europe" and most about the "big show."

The dangers facing thousands of ships which will be involved in the operation are very real. Hitler will have bombers, shells from big shore batteries, torpedoes, shells and bullets from naval guns, minefields and even, it is now rumoured, Midget submarines to oppose the passage of the greatest armadas the world has ever known.

Yet despite the knowledge that the operations will cost fine ships and the lives of gallant men no one in Britain to-day has the slightest doubt that a big scale Dunkirk in reverse will succeed.

HUGE FOOD STORES READY

In addition to the vast armies and war materials brought into Britain in readiness Britain, too, has become the larder of the United Nations. Eight thousand food dumps at strategic parts of the country guarantee that the liberating armies and the men behind them, civilian war workers of Britain and the liberated peoples will have enough food to enable supply ships to be diverted to the Second Front operations.

In addition to warships and vast numbers of merchantmen no fewer than 50 different types of British landing craft will take part in the biggest naval exploit of all time. Those 50 different types of landing craft are in themselves a symbol of the way Britain with her back to the wall is prepared for the big offensive. They were designed as offensive craft at the very time Hitler was preparing to invade Britain.

Within six months of Dunkirk those first major landing craft were undergoing trials on the River Mersey. Soon, they were being built in their thousands all round the British coast and even in factories and garages miles away from the sea. Blue-prints were flown across the Atlantic for production to be started in America.

There have been many developments since those days. Landing craft have lost many of their former discomforts and disadvantages. But they still symbolize the traditional British outlook towards ladings in Europe.

PROGRESS IN AIRCRAFT DESIGN

By S. E. VEALE

A survey of aircraft design over the past 20 years discloses that many of the technical improvements in aircraft had their birth in Britain. Before the war British fighters and bombers in the more important categories were the standard by which those of other countries were judged, and at the outbreak of war in September 1939, the Royal Air Force was equipped with types having characteristics which both the Germans and Britain's allies have since adopted.

In fighters, emphasis was laid on fire power, armour for the pilot, protected fuel tanks, maximum operating height, and a high degree of manœuvrability. The successful pursuit of these objectives paid a handsome dividend in the Battle of Britain in 1940, and exposed the errors into which the Luftwaffe had fallen in its resolve to rely on quantity rather than quality in its equipment.

Similarly, Britain favoured the large, well-armed and well-armoured bomber, capable of carrying a great weight of the heaviest bombs over great distances. Other countries, notably Germany, believed in the small, lightly armed and lightly armoured bomber, and those which built big machines failed to protect them adequately or to make provision for big loads of big bombs. To-day, Britain's allies and her enemies have turned increasingly towards larger size and more extensive armour and armament.

PRINCIPLES OF PROGRESS

Progress in aircraft design comes from three main sources—

(1) a steady and gradual refinement of tried and proved methods;

(2) bold departures from common practices, and

(3) close attention to details, internal and external.

Examples from the range of British warplanes illustrating these methods of progress are (1) the Typhoon fighter, (2) the Mosquito fighter and bomber and (3) the Lancaster and Halifax heavy bombers. Sometimes all three methods are combined, as in the Supermarine Spitfire fighter.

Few technical advances have led to a reduction in the weight of the aircraft. The majority have raised it. As a result, the modern aircraft, size for size, is far heavier than its predecessor of a few years ago. The extra weight, of course, is not a dead loss. The clever designer makes it give a good return in the form of higher speed, better take-off, improved performance, or in some other desirable quality. Even a coat of paint adds weight, but this may be necessary to protect the outer covering of the aircraft from corrosion and rust or to make detection by the enemy more difficult.

The introduction of the retracting undercarriage added to the structure weight, but increased speed. The variable pitch airscrew is many times heavier than the fixed-pitch airscrew but so increases efficiency that few aircraft now use fixed-pitch types. Flaps add something to the total weight but they assist the take-off and steepen the glide for landing, and are almost indispensable on the faster types. Batteries of cannon and machine-guns in fighters and gun turrets in bombers all mean additional loads, as does heavy armour plating; but hitting power is necessary to win air battles and armour for the safety of the crew.

MECHANIZATION EFFICIENCY AND WEIGHT

Parallel trends have been seen in aero engineering. In the quest for ever-increasing height, superchargers weighing many pounds have become necessary. As their efficiency increased so a further fitment had to be added—a device to cool the air which the supercharger had heated during compression. With the growing "mechanization" of aircraft the engine was called upon to supply electric, hydraulic and pneumatic power to work the many moving parts, in addition to meeting its own needs. Generators and pumps were therefore necessary. In some aircraft the demand for these additional services is so great that a separate engine has had to be installed to provide them, thus adding still more weight, but again raising efficiency.

The science of aeronautics holds fewer mysteries to-day than it did 20 years ago, but those best qualified to judge believe that many discoveries have yet to be made. Recent investigations into the behaviour of air as it passes over and round an aircraft has established the fact that even the smallest projections can take away speed and spoil performance.

SUCCESS OF POLISHED SPITFIRE

To get the highest efficiency, the air must be made to flow smoothly over every part. Even rivet heads, which are seldom deeper than one-thirty-second part of an inch, act as a brake. Where the greatest speed is sought, rivet heads run flush with the skin so that the flow shall not be disturbed. The value of a smooth surface was recently demonstrated in Italy. In a bid to get a few more miles an hour, the wings of a Spitfire were waxed and polished; the extra speed so obtained enabled the Spitfire to catch fast, high-flying German reconnaissance aircraft which, earlier, had not been easy to intercept.

MADRASSI GUNNERS BLAST THE JAPS IN ARAKAN

Post-war maps of the Arakan are going to show big reductions in the heights of some of the hills of the Mayu range, thanks largely to the activities of a certain battery of Madrassi gunners who are daily blasting Jap positions dug in around the summits. I stood by the command post of this Madrassi battery, writes an Indian Army Observer, and watched their shells lop the top off a distant hill-feature like a knife taking the top of a tender coconut. Day and night these gunners in company with those of Mahratta and Punjabi batteries in the same regiment, are blasting the Japs out of their hill hide-outs just put as quickly as they can be located.

So far this regiment has pumped 4,000 shells into enemy positions in five weeks—they support Infantry attacks with the same accuracy with which they bring fire to bear on odd pockets of Japs.

An officer of the Unit told me gleefully of the day when from his observation post, overlooking Jap positions, he saw a column of the enemy moving across open country carrying a gun in pieces. The fire which he brought down on them reduced the party to much the same condition as their guns.

These Indian gunners have mastered the intricacies of their job with immense enthusiasm. Many of their shoots are now carried out in co-operation with "air observation post"—the man who flies above the target in a light plane and indicates necessary corrections to the gunners by radio direct from his cock-pit.

PIONEERS SAVE AMMUNITION AND STORES

If the Japs in the Imphal area expected to gain ammunition, food and supplies from dumps they had hoped we would be forced to abandon, they must have been bitterly disappointed, writes an Indian Army Observer. Due to the strenuous efforts of pioneers from Bengal and Bihar, ordnance dumps were cleared and ammunition loaded on to trucks in preparation for its transportation back to Imphal.

Little Mundas, aborigines from Bihar, and Mussalmans from Eastern Bengal worked side by side, sometimes under enemy fire. Once they watched two of our Hurricanes shoot down a Jap Zero, watched the incendiary bullets rip into the enemy plane's fuselage as it skimmed over them and then watched it crash in flames.

As they moved away from their camp, towards Imphal, the Japs moved in and started mortaring them, but a jungle battery was in position and a few shells from it soon silenced the infiltrating enemy.

On reaching Imphal they were flown out to a destination in Eastern Bengal. They were so tired that they were asleep within five minutes of leaving the ground. Within a few hours they were at their new destination, and after a few days rest, ready to tackle their next job.

LIVING LESS DANGEROUSLY

By COMMANDER STEPHEN KING-HALL.

IF Britain is to live less dangerously in future than in the past, then, as a nation we must remain strong enough after this war to ensure that we can never again be pushed to the brink of the precipice, as we were in 1940. There is a danger that, when the war ends, defence problems will be very low on the list of urgent postwar problems which will have to be settled, and I believe that the time to consider post-war defence is now, when danger has united the nation.

For some months Parliament has been discussing the Government's plans for the education, health and housing of the people of Britain. A good deal of concentrated effort has been put into these discussions and plans. Without the primary factor necessary to the successful accomplishment of these great plans for the welfare of the people—namely, the safety of the people—the welfare proposals would be built up on a foundation of quicksand.

After World War I, it was hoped that the League of Nations and collective security would ensure a world free from war. Armaments were discarded unscientifically and without a plan. Collective security turned out to be no security, because most of the nations behind collective security had no strength. Although might is not right, right has to have plenty of might behind it if the right is to be done. When Germany, Italy and Japan left the League, the remaining Great Powers who wanted peace, instead of acting in unison, tried to disarm one another and greatly weakened the weapon of the League. The League of Nations failed because a great mass of human beings animated by hatred and fear was unable to live up to the high ideals which inspired the Covenant.

At this critical time we were without the machinery necessary to reconsider our defence position. The three fighting services had been greatly whittled down, and our weapons were getting out of date. Statesmen had forgotten that peace is only an armistice and will last only so long as the necessary strength exists to suppress any one who tries to break it.

Why, when our statesmen then in power saw the first red glow of war on the horizon, did they fail to rectify this state of affairs? Because rearmament had become a matter of political controversy. The public had been led to believe that there would be no more war, and they were ignorant of the danger and believed that armed forces were unnecessary. A vital necessity after this war will be political unity in Britain about defence. Political unity cannot be created; it must be a consequence of agreed thought—and agreement as to the policy to be pursued. This, in its turn, is the result of education, and education comprises the ascertainment of facts and the formulation of conclusions derived from a study of those facts.

What are the facts about defence problems? Some may be disputable, but many are incontrovertible, and no one can dispute the fact that there is great ignorance among all classes of the community about many aspects of defence which are as solid and real as the fact that two plus two equals four. A first step, I feel, must be to ensure that Britain shall have available the machinery necessary for the collection of facts and that, when Parliament comes to debate policy and perhaps call upon the people to make financial sacrifices, the debates shall take place on a basis of sound information.

Many suggestions have been made as to the form that the defence machinery should take. A permanent National Defence Council, imperial if possible, has been proposed. It would consist of the Prime Minister, the leaders of the principal political parties, the Foreign Secretary, the Defence Ministers and Dominion representatives, with an Advisory Board of Ministers and experts. This Council would watch the defence situation year by year according to the international situation and issue an annual report to Parliament.

Another suggestion for the future is to have a merging of the three fighting services into one fighting service and a combined General Staff responsible to the Minister of Defence. At the very least my personal hope is that we shall do away with the arrangement whereby the three defence estimates are each discussed on separate occasions and without reference to the two other estimates. I believe it to have been an unsatisfactory arrangement when only two services were involved but a quite inexcusable one when defence involves three departments.

VILLAGE SCHOOLMASTER SERVES WITH "OLD BOYS"

Everyone has heard of the valuable contribution made by Indian States to the war effort—in money, material and in their own fighting men now serving on various war fronts. Few have heard of the great work of the gallant little army of non-combatants—the men of the Pioneer and Labour Units.

Thousands of these sturdy workers, mostly agricultural labourers, have volunteered for service in fields and in a type of labour far different and remote from the life of their own villages. Among the many States represented are Travancore, Cochin and Pudukottah. With the men from all three States busy like so many ants on road construction, stone-quarrying and crushing and showing their skill in house-building one base area in Assam resembled a slice of South India, writes an Indian Observer.

There was nothing strange about that for Norbert George, of Arthinkal, Shertally, Travancore, Second-in-Command of a Norbert regards his "boys" with a paternal eye. Many of them sat at his feet in the English School at Arthinkal. He was and still is headmaster of the school.

In order to be with his old pupils he has twice obtained leave of absence. He was with the first party for six months last year and when the second batch left Quilon shortly afterwards the urge to look after his flock overcame any thoughts about the arduous nature of his work.

As he himself explained there was nothing to it.

Looking after boys in school and supervising those same boys, now a little grown up, on quarry work—where's the 'difference?' "It's the easiest job in the work".

Norbert has watched over his boys in wet season and dry, in sickness and in health on all kinds of jobs—road-making, constructing railway sidings and quarrying. His interest and that of the O.C. Captain E. G Morgan, former Malaya planter, are to be seen in many ways, in care for their spiritual and material welfare.

15 KEPT 60 JAPS AT BAY

Two officers, one staff sergeant and twelve Nagas and Kukis, from dawn until after dark kept more than 60 Japs from entering the village of Kangjang, twelve miles east of the Indo-Burma border in the Naga Hills. At least 15 Japs were killed in the fight which took place during the Jap march across the hills towards Kohima at the beginning of the month.

Captain J. G. Ruther, of Ashley Gardens, Westminster, London, told an Indian Army Observer, the Japs attacked our little post about 5-30 a.m. We kept them out until we moved out under cover of darkness. One of the Nagas was actually defending his own village.

The small party wandered about behind the enemy lines for five days. Their only meal was of edible roots.
I met the officers, still operating in the Kohima area apparently none the worse for their experiences.

OFFICERS' WIVES NURSE SEPOYS

Living under jungle conditions, one Indian and seven British ladies, wives of officers, are voluntarily nursing sepoys who fall sick when undergoing jungle training at a centre somewhere in India.

All the ladies have had experience in hospital work, and one of them is a fully qualified nurse. Besides their work in the small hospital they do Red Cross work—sewing, knitting or making bandages. The curtains made for the hospital bear testimony to the interest they are taking in the welfare of the men.

These ladies live in improvised huts, built with pebbles, mud, bamboo and thatch, similar to those used by the sepoys.

TURKEY ISOLATED IN BALKAN POLITICS

By LEONARD KIRSCHEN

IN my previous dispatch, I have discussed the Hungarian problem and Turkish reaction. Let us now consider the rest of the Balkans. that is, Rumania and Bulgaria.

At the time of writing nothing is clear. We do not know whether Bulgaria and Rumania have been occupied or not. The news that this is the case may be true or not, but one thing we know that there are already German armies in Rumania—which is still fighting as an ally of Germany's—and that there are German troops in Bulgaria. In the case of these two countries, all that could be done was to reinforce them with more troops and tighten the economic, military and political hold on them. The last meaning of course, more Gestapo control.

Both Rumania and Bulgaria have been and are even now trying to get out of the war. We have had Sevoff's peace mission and we had Prince Stirbey's mission. But all this means absolutely nothing. So far, both Rumanians and Bulgarians have always replied that the moment for opposing the Germans had not yet come. Now the Russians are there and the moment has come. Will they do anything? That is the question everyone is asking. If they wanted to do something, they must rise now or perhaps it will be too late, not because Russians will have arrived, but because the Germany will have occupied the countries so completely that nobody will be able to move.

TURKEY'S FOREIGN POLICY

Now what is Turkey's position in this whole complex of events. I have lived for over three years in Turkey and have seen how the Turks have always tried to maintain their Balkan links, even with Bulgaria which is a country universally hated in Turkey. Turkey always based her foreign policy on the idea that there is such a thing as Balkan solidarity and by offering her good offices for an eventual peace mediation, she was as an ally of Great Britain's, trying to preserve the Balkan block after the war.

We know that the idea of a Balkan block had been regarded with disapproving eyes by Moscow because the Russians had had bad experiences with the so-called sanitary cordons which had been drawn right across her European frontiers. But lately, probably under the idea that it might help the Balkans to break with Hitler, Moscow was not quite so adamant on this point.

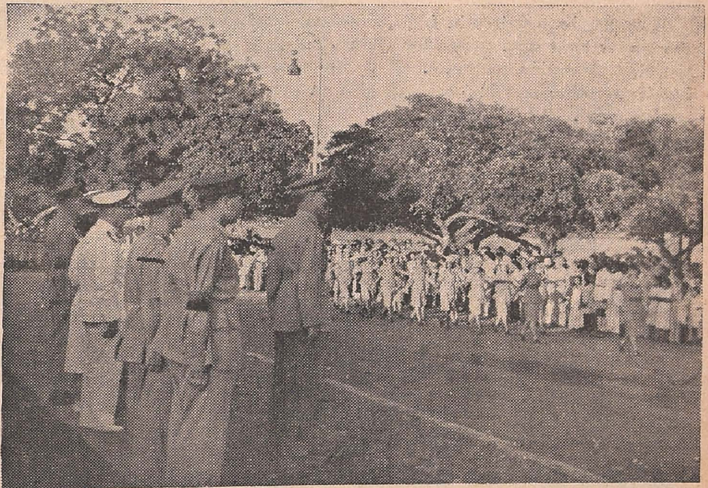
Hitler's latest moves into the Balkans leave Turkey completely isolated. She can do nothing more. Already, if we consider only a minor detail, the Anatolian Agency correspondents in Sofia, Bucharest and Budapest can no longer send out news. The correspondent in Sofia has been recalled and so has the correspondent in Berlin. The agency is now considering the possibility of recalling the correspondents now in Budapest and Bucharest.

GERMAN CENSORSHIP ELUDED

And incidentally, I must just mention that the man who was first to flash the news of Hungary's occupation by the Germans and thus upset a good deal of the German make believe, was Ihsan Djemal Karaburcak, the Anatolian agency's correspondent in Bucharest. He flashed his message out, somehow managed to elude the censorship, on the evening of March 19. On March 20, foreign correspondents in Turkey were able to retransmit the news and on the same evening the whole world knew.

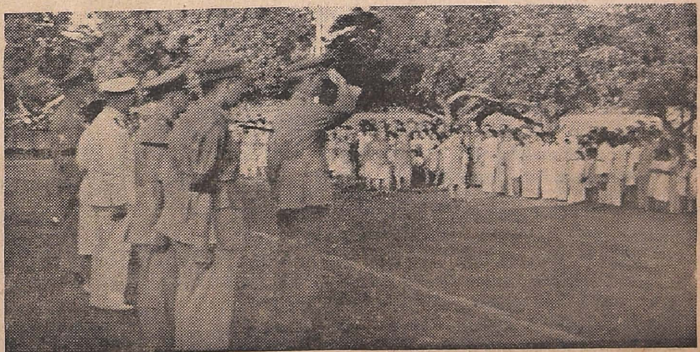
Turkish public opinion was shocked and I am not going to give you any press comment to back this because I am telling you what Ahmed and Mehmet, the man-in-the-street, is talking. It has given the Turks a good occasion to compare what an alliance between a big and a small power really is like when the big power is lead by a man like Hitler. Britain never used such methods to persuade Turkey to place air-bases at her disposal.

And now for a last item to show how the Turkish Government feels about this. Ex-Premier Kallay sought and was given refuge in the Turkish Legation in Budapest. I understand that the Turkish Government has been negotiating with the German authorities to give Kallay transit facilities in order to reach Turkey.



MADRAS CELEBRATES THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE W.A.C. (I.).—
The auxiliaries march past the saluting base.

The salute is taken by Brigadier Macgregor., O.B.E. (below).



R.A.F. MOBILE FIELD HOSPITALS

ROYAL Air Force Mobile field hospitals based close to the Burma Border are equipped to deal with any emergency from a sore throat to a major operation. They come to India from England entirely staffed by R.A.F. personnel and sisters from the Princess Mary's R.A.F. Nursing Service and are now playing an important part in the welfare of Service Personnel in the front-line.

A complete dental clinic is part of each unit. So are bacteriological and radiological sections, which are portable and self-contained. The whole hospital can be packed up in a matter of hours and moved to any area in which it is urgently required by its own permanent transport system.

Since they have arrived in India, locations up and down the border have been chosen for them where they be of the most strategic importance. Tents are usually struck but if no other buildings are available on the site they are preferred.

"I came across one of these mobile hospitals tucked away in a valley surrounded by some of the most beautifully tinted hills in the world," writes an R.A.F. Public Relations Officer. "It is an ideal place for recuperation with crisp mountain air and loads of unclouded sunlight. I thought that if I had to be ill, this is where I should like to be.

"The commanding officer, formerly a leading surgeon in Wigan, Lancashire, said his hospital had just moved there after having been on a tented site. A squadron leader was found digging for victory and stated that before joining the R.A.F. he had been Resident Casualty Officer at the Royal Manchester Infirmary. Later he performed a minor operation on an ex-motor driver from Gray's End, Kent.

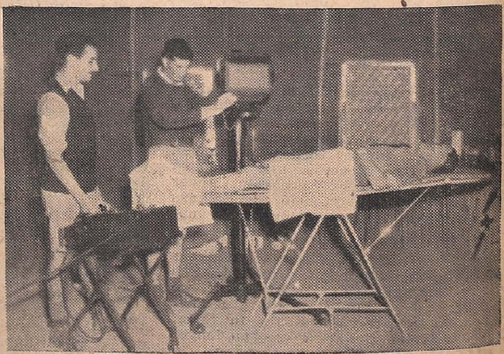
"The dental officer, a 37 years old flight-lieutenant from Ely, Cambridgeshire, supervises the dental clinic. When I visited him he was attending to the teeth of his own dental mechanic, a leading aircraftman from Uxbridge.

"The bacteriological section is supervised by a 43 years old flight-lieutenant, a former consulting physician from Cardiff. The Radio-therapy and X-ray room is well equipped, considering that all the apparatus has to be mobile. The officer-in-charge is a flight-lieutenant from Blackheath, London, and is ably assisted by a sergeant from Wroxton, Swindon, Wiltshire.

"The hospital was fairly full and there were other patients who were on the recuperation list and were enjoying games, reading, and just lazing about in the open air. The unit includes two sisters of the P.M.R.A.F. N.S. of whom one comes from Forest hill, London, and the other from Leighton-sea, Essex. They had both volunteered for service abroad.

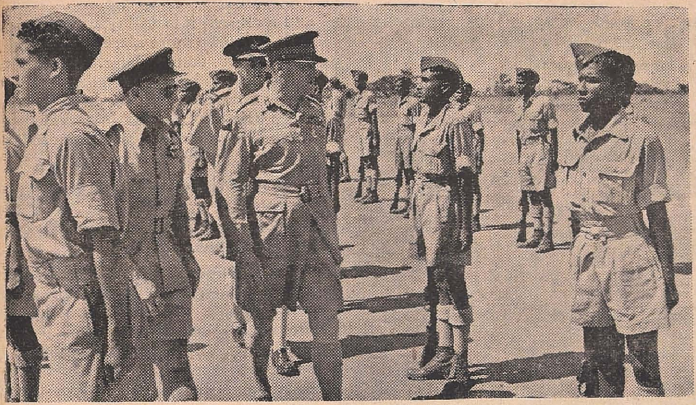
A good book or a letter from home keeps the convalescents in jovial spirits.

Two sisters of the P.M.R.A.F.N.S. enjoy a spot of humour as they come off duty.

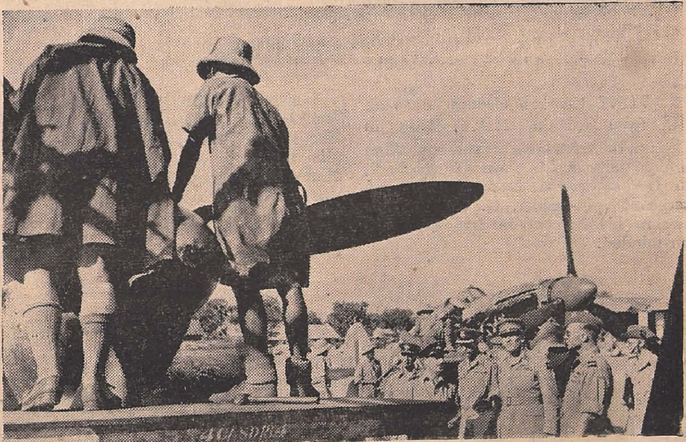


Portable radiological apparatus is used. Radio-therapy treatment can be given and the unit is completely self-contained. In the photo are seen 519411. Sgt. R.M.L. Hayward, aged 27, of Church village Near Pontypridd. S. Wales. 66476 F/L M.J. Hackett, aged 26, of 54c, Shooters Hill Road, Blackheath, Kent.

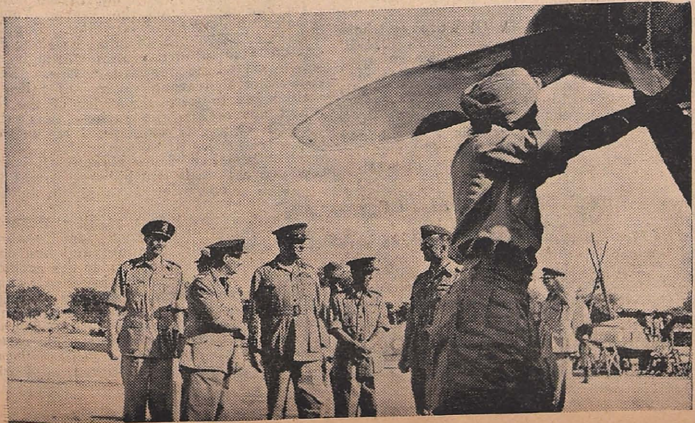
C.-IN-C. AT BANGALORE



At Bangalore Commander-in-Chief inspects I.A.F. recruits, accompanied by Air Commodore P. H. Mackworth and W/Co. W. Berwick.

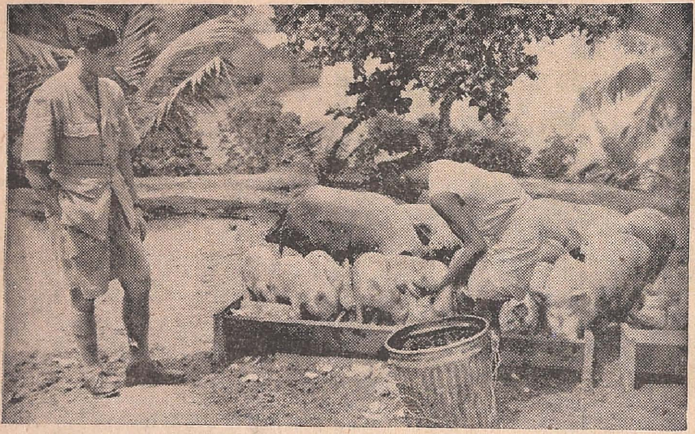


Commander-in-Chief watches I.A.F. ground crew at work.



Commander-in-Chief watches I.A.F. ground crew servicing aircraft.

AIR-MINDED PIGS OF CEYLON



"AIR-MINDED PIGS OF CEYLON."—Sergeant C. G. Whitmee (No. 508734) of Longwick, Bucks, is seen watching the feeding of the pigs.

EVERY time an aircraft takes off from certain R.A.F. base in Ceylon, there is a considerable squeaking and scuffling inside a wooden stockade in the camp. It is a piggery and sergeant pig-keeper, G. C. Whitmee swears his fine boars and sows are air-minded.

Whitmee hails from Longwick, Bucks (about 3 miles from the famous Chequers). Farming is in his blood. His father is a farmer-butcher at Moreston Pinkney, Northants, and so was his grandfather and great grandfather before that.

Whitmee got his commanding officer's permission to start a piggery and launched it last May with two sows in farrow, two more about three months old and a young boar. The initial outlay was about 35 pounds. Eleven young boars made the supreme sacrifice at Christmas and provided a magnificent dinner for hundreds of appreciative airmen.

To-day Whitmee has a herd of 36. He reckons that the cost of a 200-pounder works out to about 2 pounds and 5 shillings.

His porkers feed on swill and camp refuse. Their home is on a hill amidst dense jungle and they are all well protected from the rainstorms. A pig likes water on its belly but not on its back, and sometimes develops a sort of whooping cough which can become fatal.

He has two Ceylonese assistant pig-keepers and they like the work.

Many queer creatures prowl in the dense growth but the only loss through depredation has been one tiny pig which was pilfered by a 8 ft. Kabaragoya—those giant monitors of prehistoric appearance in which the Island abounds.

After two years in Ceylon, Whitmee wants his wife to join him and make a home here after the war.

Capt. Povayya.

C.-IN-C. VISITS PIONEER BATTALION IN SOUTH INDIA

When His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck visited a Pioneer Battalion during his recent tour of South India he met one officer who had served in the same unit as himself nearly 30 years ago.

He is Captain C. G. Povayya whose home is in Mercara, Coorg. In 1914–16 he was with the 88th Carnatic Infantry and the unit was at that time stationed in Madras. Captain Povayya recalls General Auchinleck as a Company Commander in the same battalion in those days and he says it was a great day for him to be visited by the Commander-in-Chief after this 30 years interval.

SIKHS' DASH AT FALL OF BUTHIDAUNG

Men of the 11th Sikh regiment were among the first troops to enter Buthidaung in the drive eastwards by the seventh Indian Division. They rode in on tanks, grenade in hand ready to sweep the town of the enemy.

They had captured the last Jap-held position on East Finger, west of Buthidaung. They had driven them off at the point of the bayonet and could hardly be restrained from dashing down the slopes into the open ground beyond to pursue the fleeing enemy, writes an Indian Army Observer.

The Sikhs' dash and bravery in this drive crowned a record of striking service in the field.

One company was "out in the blue" for two months, on the Arakan Yomas, watching a front of 50 miles. Supplies had to be brought 15 miles by river and then humped by coolies through the jungle to the forward troops. Nine-day patrols through scores of miles of thick jungle were the order of the day and apart from the rations the patrol could carry, it had to live on the country.

The opening of the seventh Division's offensive towards Buthidaung found the battalion operating as a single fighting force.

They attacked first of all "Poland" and "Rabbit," two enemy positions east of the Letwedet Chaung, and one company moved right up under the artillery barrage and, as soon as it ceased, swept in on the enemy, obtaining complete surprise. Fierce counter-attacks the following night were driven off, and a few days later the battalion moved forward to its final objective "East Finger," and the entry into Buthidaung.

SAGA OF THE BULLDOZER

By LIEUTENANT-GENERAL H. G. MARTIN

As one surveys the multifarious activities of the Engineers in Italy—activities all-important to the Allied cause—one is apt to conclude that this war is above all an Engineers' war. Then one remembers the infantry and the winter warfare in the mountains which they have endured so triumphantly; one remembers, too, the never-failing guns. Among peers there is properly no pride of place.

It is undoubtedly true, however, that in no prior campaign have the Engineers made so large a contribution to victory—if for no other reason than that in no prior campaign have we fought an enemy who has indulged in demolition on so vast a scale and in a terrain so perfectly adapted to it.

It is interesting to look at a large-scale map of Southern Italy on which are marked these German demolitions. In the extreme south—in Calabria, that is, and in Lucania and Apulia—demolitions were few and far between. As the front moved northward, however, Jerry's appetite evidently improved with eating; demolitions increased accordingly till, about the line Foggia-Naples, he began his crowning orgy of destruction.

In this area immediately behind the present front, the extent of these demolitions has to be seen to be believed. Throughout this land of mountain, gorge, and river, the enemy has blown almost every bridge and every culvert—on roads and railways both.

Again, there were whole sections of the railway along which his wrecker-train had passed; there mile on mile, every sleeper had been unrooted and smashed; every rail first cut and then tossed aside.

THE BAILEY BRIDGE

Before our armies could move—before even they could be supplied—the Engineers had to repair a sufficiency of routes through this maze of destruction. And here we may thank our stars for one of the really great inventions of the war, to wit, the Bailey bridge. Standardized and adaptable to almost any load, it is the product of the Royal Engineers' Experimental Bridging School, after one of whose professors it has been named.

Thus it is a home-made product, reckoned greatly superior to any military bridge as yet produced by any other army.

The Bailey bridge can take loads as heavy as a Churchill tank on a transporter. As in all field-bridging jobs, the preparation of the approaches is usually the longest part of the business.

So much, then, for bridging behind the line. There remains that other aspect of field bridging—the construction of assault crossings in battle, over the river obstacles which have been almost invariable features of all enemy defensive positions.

Up to a point the problem of assault crossings has been the same on both the Eighth and the Fifth Army front; on both, the nature of the river banks, together with the presence of trees and other obstacles, has precluded a detailed inspection of possible crossing places from a distance, so the choice of these crossing places has involved a great deal of Engineer patrolling and reconnaissance, under close enemy fire, to supplement the information obtainable from air photographs and other sources; and everywhere, of course, Jerry has plentifully larded all crossing places, probable and improbable, with land mines.

While units of every arm are now provided with mine detectors, in order that they may sweep their own bivouac areas and the like, the Engineers remain responsible for all vitally important jobs of this nature, such as the sweeping of the approaches to assault-crossings. Since the enemy is ever adding to his arsenal of mines—to the "S" and the Teller mines he has now added the "Shoe"—this sweeping business is a never-ending battle of wits and cold-blooded courage.

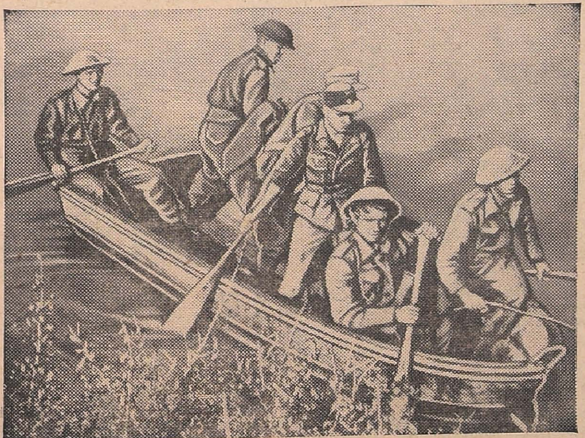
BULLDOZERS IN THE FOREFRONT

Moreover, in order to achieve surprise and to avoid the strongest enemy defences, it has been our practice to choose the less obvious crossing places. This practice has meant, of course, that the approaches to, and exits from, these unlikely crossing places have often called for very extensive improvements. And this demand in its turn has placed Engineer mechanical equipment generally, and the bulldozer in particular, right in the forefront of the battle.

By this, I mean quite literally in the forefront; for here on the Italian battlefield a bulldozer has led tanks into battle, carving a path for them under heavy fire; another has worked on in a fog with Germans all around it, its crew withdrawing only when the fog lifted—to leave their bulldozer itself temporarily in German hands; yet another has returned to resume under a storm of shell-fire, an interrupted but vitally important task, and—bearing a charmed life—survived to complete it.

Some day the saga of the bulldozer will be written; it will tell of deeds of gallantry across the world, and of desperate situations saved, from the Central Pacific to the West Wall.

Apart from these general similarities, however, the assault-bridging problems on the Eighth and Fifth Army fronts have differed widely in their more technical aspects. On the Eighth Army front it has been a question of crossing a succession of streams, normally shallow of which the Biferno, the Trigno and the Sangro are the principal examples. Here the making of assault crossings has been a comparatively simple matter of low-level bridging. On the Fifth Army front, on the other hand, two major water obstacles have barred the way—the Volturno and the Garigliano. The crossings of these major obstacles have been carried out in successive phases—the infantry have made



AS FIFTH CROSS THE VOLTURNO—GERMAN PRISONERS ROW THEMSELVES BACK.—During the hours of darkness the Fifth Army launched its big attack on the Volturno River. Soon several bridgeheads were in Allied hands and armour began to make the river crossing. Picture made in the early morning light just after the launching of the attack on the Volturno shows: *"Paddling their own canoe." First German prisoners captured helping to ferry themselves to the southern bank of the river, where they were interrogated.*

their initial battle crossings by assault boat, while their equipment has followed them by raft, both light and heavy. The Engineers, meanwhile, have worked like beavers to substitute bridges at the earliest possible moment, and so to pass a continuous stream of traffic. The first bridges have been light, floating affairs, carried on folding boats. These have soon been supplemented by Bailey bridges.

ROAD AND RAILWAY REPAIRS

Of the bridging activities of the Engineers, that about completes the story so far as I am qualified to tell it. The repair and maintenance of roads and railways, however, have many implications other than those of straight bridge-building.

In redeemed Italy, the Engineer services have already re-opened no less than 2,500 miles of road. Since, however, much of this road system—particularly in the Eighth Army area, which is of small economic importance—is low-grade, its subsequent maintenance under heavy military traffic is a vast undertaking.

As for the railways, repairs have involved the wholesale reconditioning or replacement of damaged rails, besides the restoration of signal and traffic equipment, and of the whole machinery of traffic control. Italian railways, moreover, are largely electrified, and at first there was a total absence of power owing to widespread destruction of transformer stations and transmission lines.

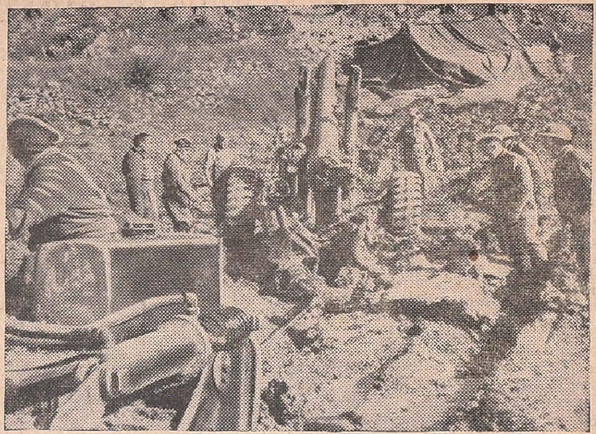
That, overcoming these difficulties, the Engineers have succeeded in putting the essential railways in working order is an achievement of which they may well be proud.

Another remarkable engineering achievement has been the completion of a system of petrol pipe lines between the base ports and the front. The laying of these pipe lines is the work of engineer personnel from the United States who do the same work in private life. They can lay the pipe itself and instal the chain of boosting stations extraordinarily quickly. The construction of the storage tanks, however—a matter of very nice adjustment—is a more ticklish job.

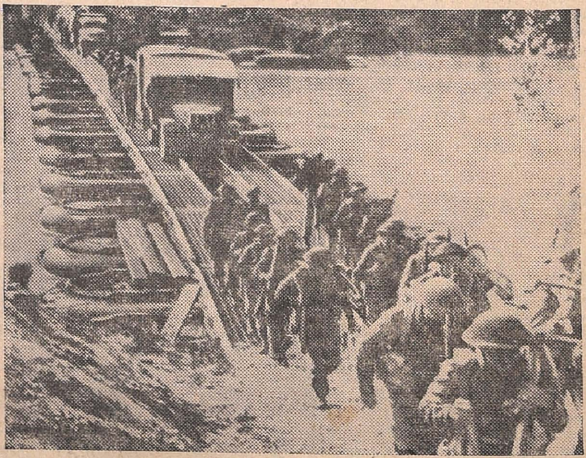
Finally, like almost every other new military activity, the operation of these pipe lines means a fresh demand on Signals to man their accompanying telephone system—Signals, without whom nothing in the Army would work, but who so often get but scant recognition.

Aerodrome work has been yet another major work of the Engineers; in fact, the British Aerodrome Construction Groups and the American Aviation Engineers have between them built about 30 airfields in Italy, the majority of these round Foggia.

By this their work in Italy, the Engineers—both British and American—are building a lasting monument in their honour.



EIGHTH ARMY GUNNERS BEAT GENERAL WEATHER AND GENERAL KESSELRING.—Picture shows *a D-6 tractor pulling a 5·5-inch gun of the Royal Artillery out of thick mud to a new and more stable position.*



ENTIRE FIFTH ARMY CROSSING THE VOLTURNO.—Picture shows: *British Infantry crosses a pontoon bridge built by United States engineers over the Volturno River.*

R.A.F. SQUADRON'S BUSY MONTH

In support of our ground troops in Arkan last month, a Hurricane squadron of the Third Tactical Air Force fired 76,000 cannon shells into Japanese troops and targets. The weight of this ammunition fired from the Hurricanes guns totals 21 tons.

An important part of the squadron's duties is close support of the Army—shooting up enemy troops occasionally within 200 yards of our own men. Such warfare calls for constant care of the aircraft cannon. The armament section has often worked throughout the night to service the aircraft's armament and intricate firing equipment. Stoppages last month averaged ½ per cent of all ammunition fired—a credit to the men who look after the guns.

"My lads have to work hard—but they're all keen to help up our efficiency and good reputation," said their 42-year-old N.C.O. in charge, a veteran Flight Sergeant Armourer.

DIPLOMATIC BACKGROUND TO WAR

By W. N. EWER

MR. Cordell Hull's Easter Sunday broadcast links closely with Mr. Edward Stettinius' visit to London. The United States Secretary of State sketched, chiefly for his own people, the main outlines of United States' foreign policy, both "long range" and "short range." Nor is there any point in his speech on which there is material divergence between his views and those of the British Government.

Mr. Stettinius and Mr. Eden, with their experts—and, of course, in close touch with the Soviet Ambassador—are setting to the task of translating general policies into specific plans and proposals. Of the immediate questions, the two which seem to take first place are, (*a*) the Allies' relations with neutral countries and (*b*) arrangements for the administration of the liberated areas of Europe.

On the first point Mr. Hull has enunciated a broad view which is shared by the British Government. "We have scrupulously respected the sovereignty of neutral nations and we have not coerced, nor shall we coerce, any nation to join with us in the fight." But at the same time "we ask them, but with insistence, to cease aiding our enemy."

Just how that general principle is to be translated into practice in the case of each particular neutral is a tactical problem. Much work has already been done in this field.

EDEN-STETTINIUS TALKS

But one may expect, as a consequence of the Eden-Stettinius talks a definite concerted Anglo-American effort—with the approval of other allies—to bring home to the neutral nations the necessity of reviewing and revising their own attitudes in view of the now evident fact that "our strength and that of our allies now makes only one outcome of the war possible."

The other urgent matter of administration of liberated areas is already well in hand. So far as Norway, Holland, Belgium and Czechoslovakia are concerned, arrangements are practically complete. In regard to France the anomalous status of the French National Committee, treated as an Administration but not formally recognized as a Government, has caused some difficulties. The publication in the United States of what purported to be a directive to the Allied High Command provoked rumours of something like a crisis. But Mr. Hull's formula—that in the liberated areas of France the Committee shall "exercise leadership to establish law and order under the supervision of the Allied Commander-in-Chief"—has met with general approval.

Italian affairs, too, after the slight storms of last month, are now running smoothly enough, and there seems every reason to expect the Italian leaders will work out a plan which can be cordially approved by the Allies.

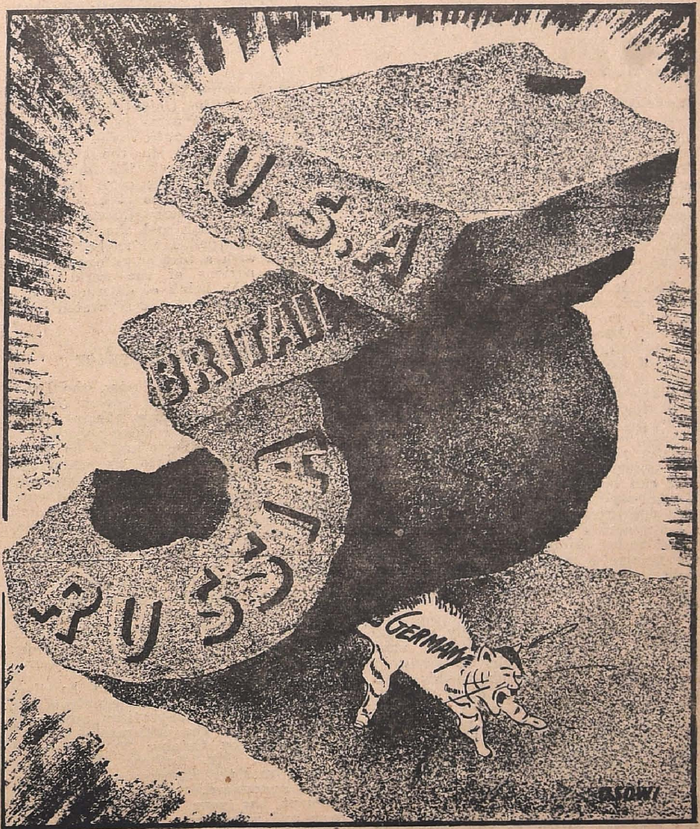
The problems of Greece and Yugoslavia remain. In both the purpose of the Allies is still—and must be—to encourage and assert every effort in either case to bring about maximum national unity, and to do this with a minimum interference in either Greek or Yugoslav domestic affairs.

In regard to long-term plans, perhaps the most interesting passage in Mr. Hull's broadcast was that in which he outlined the United States Government's conception of a post-war "international organization to maintain peace and prevent aggression." He lays down six postulates: (1) Assumption of obligations by member states not to use force against other nation, "except in accordance with arrangements made;" (2) maintenance of adequate forces to preserve peace; (3) provision for institutions and procedures for calling this force into action to preserve peace; (4) creation of an international court for the settlement of international controversies which fall within the realm of the law; (5) development of machinery for adjusting controversies to which the field of law has not yet been extended; (6) other institutions for the development of new rules to keep abreast of the changing world.

Now one interesting thing about these six postulates—with all of which, I think I can say definitely, the British Government concurs—is that they are an almost exact summary of the basic ideas of the Covenant of the League of Nations. So they challenge the almost automatic criticism that precisely something on these lines has been tried before, and has failed. Is there, then, any point or purpose in repeating the experiment? Is it not bound to fail again? I think not. I think such criticism ignores the essential reasons for the failure of the old League. The

(*Continued on page 18*)

A ROLLING STONE GATHERS...DER FUEHRER'S FUR



DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY

By WICKHAM STEED.

HOW many of us, I wonder, have managed to fit the recent address by Cordell Hull into the general picture? It was a notable utterance, which impressed everybody in Britain who either heard it, or read it, as a remarkable statement of American and Allied policy.

Evidently, the policy of the United States must be a very weighty element in any Allied policy. It was so last time, only then there were snags and differences that ought to be avoided this time. The enormous popularity of President Wilson in Europe was chiefly due to a belief that he had a good policy, whereas the European allies who, by the way, were only the associates, not the allies of the United States, had no comprehensive policy at all. Much of the confusion in Europe and the world, that accompanied and followed the Paris Peace Conference, came directly and indirectly, from the fact that President Wilson's policy turned out to be much more hazy even upon the League of Nations than it appeared to be and that the people in the Congress of the United States were not disposed to back it up.

AMERICAN POLICY

But it is quite useless and not altogether just to complain that America let us down, by rejecting the Peace Treaty and refusing to enter the League of Nations. It is useful, on the contrary, to take account of things that bear upon the framing and the carrying out of American policy, so that this time we may know, more or less exactly, where we stand.

This is where Mr. Cordell Hull's broadcast address comes in. It was not, it could not be a hard and fast definition of American or Allied policy. He is Secretary of State in the administration of President Roosevelt, who is the head of the Democratic Party, and this is a presidential year when party feeling runs high and when the next President, whoever he may be, has to be elected in November, together with the greater part of Congress. So we must not suppose that what Mr. Cordell Hull says can bind any future President or Congress. We can, however, note that this very careful, moderate and circumspect American Statesman has made an effort to lay before the American people the principles of a policy on which he believes both parties could substantially agree, and thus to lift the whole matter of electioneering.

No foreigner, and especially no Englishman, ought even to suggest that Mr. Cordell Hull is right or wrong in anything he recommends to his own people. The British and other foreigners, who care for the peace and well-being of the world, can reflect upon the ideas he thinks likely to be acceptable to American opinion. He believes that American opinion has been moving in some definite directions since the present war broke out. He said it has moved away from a strong preference for separate action to the knowledge and conviction that unity of action with other nations can alone achieve results essential to the continuance of freedom in the world, and that it has also moved away from careless tolerance of evil institutions to the conviction that free Governments and Nazi and Fascist Governments cannot exist together.

AMERICANS DETERMINED TO DESTROY NAZIS

"An understanding of these points," Mr. Hull declared, "will help to clarify the policy of the United States Government." Then he made two positive statements. "The American people," he said, "are determined to press forward with their allies to the defeat of their enemies and to the destruction of the Nazi and Fascist systems, and the American people are also determined to go on after victory with their allies and all other nations which desire peace and freedom to establish and maintain in full strength the institutions without which peace and freedom cannot be enduring realities."

To these statements he added something that sounds like a reminder and a warning. "The United States," he went on, "cannot move in and out of international co-operation and in and out of participation in the responsibility of a member of the family of nations." After saying some interesting things about the behaviour of neutrals, the French Committee of National Liberation and the future of Italy, Mr. Cordell Hull rubbed in his argument with a further reminder that the free nations of the world were brought to the brink of destruction by allowing themselves to be separated and divided.

VICTORY AND ENDURING PEACE

"Unless the United States, the British Commonwealth, the Soviet Union and China, harmonize their real interests, and act and agree together," he told them, that there can be no hope of turning victory into an enduring peace. Agreement and co-operation between these four big nations, without prejudice to the rights and interests of less powerful nations, must form the solid framework for the building up of all future policy and international organization, because the very possibility of an enduring peace and of free institutions, depends upon the strength of the framework, otherwise all organizations to preserve peace will be paper creations and the path will be wide open for the rise of another aggressor.

This Mr. Hull believed to be the commonsense of his fellow countrymen, as shown in the non-partisan approval by Congress of the declaration signed at Moscow, on October 30, last year by himself, Mr. Anthony Eden, M. Molotov and the Ambassador of China. So he announced, "the American Government has gone to work upon the form and substance of an international organization to maintain peace and prevent aggression, and upon the economic and other co-operative arrangements necessary to maintain the British and the United States as a working partner with other free nations. Such an international organization must bind its members not to use force against each other, or against any other nation, except in accordance with the arrangements made. These arrangements will provide for the maintenance of adequate forces to preserve peace, and for an international court to apply law to the settlement of controversy which fall within the realm of law."

> **A PROUD FATHER.**
>
> The late Subedar Subramaniam's father Mr. Kannayiram, to whom an Open Letter was addressed in these columns, is an Hon. Lieutenant. He has also won the I.D.S.M.

UNITED WILL OF AMERICAN PEOPLE

He asked for the help of both Houses of Congress in this work, so that it might express the united will of the American people, who, like their Allies, are determined to make an end of Fascism and Nazism, and of the power behind them. In substance, and with one important addition, Mr. Cordell Hull's plan resembles the outline of a league to enforce peace which was sponsored some 30 years ago by a former Republican President of the United States, the late William Howard Taft. So it is in keeping with older American ideas. An important addition was made by Mr. Hull in an expression of deep faith that a period of great democratic accomplishment will follow the liberation of Europe from the German yoke, and that the liberated nations will have a new and magnificent opportunity to achieve the social and economic democracy upon which political democracy must rest. I personally, interpret this admission as a sign that Mr. Cordell Hull feels the need, not only to enforce, but to create peace.

I have long ceased to believe that peace can be permanently preserved by arrangements merely designed to prevent or to punish aggression. I think the League of Nations broke down mainly because it was too negative, because it was against war, more than for peace, because it did not understand peace as a go-ahead, constructive, full-blooded business that could make war look like a mean and barbarous thing. To my mind this war is not so much as a war as a universal policy operation against greedy and bloodthirsty gangsters. To smash them utterly and then to set about the creation of vigorous peace, should, I am convinced, be the real Allied policy, and if we can get this policy into our minds, we shall find all the aspects of the present fighting fall into their proper places in a comprehensive picture of the whole mighty endeavour.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PAYS LONG-TERM DIVIDENDS

By EDWARD CRISP BULLARD

WHEN considering a particular application of science to explosives, to textiles, to shipbuilding or to some other practical subject, it is easy to see that the things discussed are interesting and important, but it is not so easy to see that they do not come about by chance because someone happens to have a bright idea. I want here to try to show that they come from the application of that great body of knowledge collected in the past three hundred years and called "physical science."

Now, what is physical science? It is the study of the behaviour of inanimate matter. The motion of the planets, the design of a steam engine, the production of petrol, the breaking of a wave on the seashore, the colours of dyes and the interior of an atom are all parts of physical science.

Such things may be studied for two reasons. We may study them because they are interesting, and we like to see the connexions between apparently widely different things without any ulterior motive, or we may study them to achieve some practical end. The first is called "pure" science, and the second "applied" science. Pure science is, I suppose, closely connected with the small boy's desire to take his father's watch to pieces. He does not, unless he is unusually optimistic, expect that the watch will go any better after he has taken it to pieces; he simply wants to see how the wheels go round and to understand how it works.

SMALL BEGINNINGS—BIG RESULTS

The experiments made a hundred years ago by Ampere and Faraday to find out if there is any connexion between electric currents and magnetism are an example of this kind of practical science without practical motive.

Applied science, on the other hand, is based on an interest in solving some practical problem such as how to design a better electric motor for a vacuum cleaner, or how to make sea water drinkable.

It is obvious that you cannot design a new motor without knowing a good deal about electric currents and magnets, and that the designer of the first electric motor could not have started unless he knew a good deal about them. No one could have said a hundred and fifty years ago that magnets had anything to do with providing power for sweeping carpets or making telephones, or indeed, that they were of any practical use at all, except for picking up pins and making ship's compasses.

Ampere and Farady showed that a wire carrying an electric current would move a magnet, and that moving a magnet near a wire would make a current flow in it. It is on these discoveries that the electrical industry is based.

It is at first sight rather odd that a very practical matter like the electrical industry should be built on such unpromising foundations. Such a connexion is, however, very common; in fact almost universal.

If you want to solve some practical problem you can usually only do it if you know where and how to start looking for the solution, and in any but the simplest problems you can only tell where to start looking if someone has done a lot of spade-work first. There are many examples; the wireless valve could not be invented till someone had studied the behaviour of the electrons given off by white-hot metals in a vacuum; but when, forty years ago, J. J. Thomson and his students were making the fundamental experiments on these things, they can have had no knowledge of the direction in which their discoveries would be applied, though they may have felt sure that such advances in pure science would bear practical fruit eventually.

STARS AND WARFARE

I came across another rather typical example recently. I was talking to an astronomer who had become interested in explosives and I said, "Well, anyway you are having a holiday from stars." "Oh, I don't know," he replied, "I find the work I've done on variable stars comes in very useful; after all an explosive just after it has gone off is only a mass of hot gas and so is a star; the theory is very much the same for both."

This solving of a problem by seeing its connexions with more familiar things is at the root of much applied science; but such a connexion is only useful if we know something about the more familiar thing with which our problem is connected. It is not helpful to say that an explosion is in some ways like a star, unless you know a good deal about stars.

I hope I have said enough to show the justification of pure science from a practical point of view. The first essential for a harvest of useful discoveries and inventions is a continual sowing of the seed of pure research.

Pure research has largely stopped now, owing to the war. If it were not restarted there would be little immediate effect, but the practical discoveries of twenty years hence would have been cut off at their source.

TIME-LAG BETWEEN DISCOVERY AND INVENTION

The time required for a discovery in pure science to be applied is longer than one might expect. It is ordinarily twenty to fifty years.

The fundamental electrical discoveries which I mentioned just now were made between 1820 and 1835, but it was not until the 'eighties that the streets of London began to be lit by electricity. Again, Clerk Maxwell—the first Professor of Physics at Cambridge—perfected the theory of electro-magnestism and predicted the existence of wireless waves in 1865 and Horz first produced them in 1888, but practical wireless telegraphy did not come till 1900, or television and radio-location till the late 'thirties. The electron was discovered in 1896 but wireless valves were of no practical importance till 1915.

These time intervals are so long that there is, generally speaking, no possibility of making pure research pay for itself. The practical gains come from the fusing of the work of different men over many years into a coherent picture

MADRAS FLOWER BLOSSOMS ON IMPHAL PLAIN!

SHANMUGAVEL PANDARAM'S HEROIC ACTION.

South Indians manning anti-Aircraft guns in the Imphal area have shot down or seriously damaged at least five Japanese aircraft in the course of four short "tip and run" raids on the Imphal plain area by the enemy, says an Indian Army Observer.

The men have little more than a year's service and their first experience in action has come after months of hard training and more months of watching and waiting.

One of the Jap aircraft was destroyed by a detachment who were about to have breakfast.

The hero of the engagement was Naik Shanmugavel Pandaram, who comes from Shencottah, near Quilon. He was promoted Havildar on the site that same morning by the Colonel. If it were not for the war this handsome, cultured-looking Madrassi would be in his father's flower business outside the big temple near his home.

These Madrassi Anti-Aircraft gunners have marvellous eyesight. "They can spot a Zero for certain with the naked eye, while we are looking through glasses wondering whether it is a Spitfire or a Hurricane," said a British Sergeant.

of how things work, most of the items being of no special value by themselves.

The engineer who designs a ship uses a knowledge of the mechanics of water. This knowledge has been accumulated gradually during two hundred and fifty years from the time of Newton to the present or perhaps I should say during the two thousand years since the time when Archimedes had his bright idea while sitting in his both at Syracuse. Clearly the men who accumulated this knowledge could not have made a living or have paid for their experiments directly by selling such knowledge from year to year as it was acquired.

DIVIDENDS AWAIT PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF IDEAS

We therefore see that pure research, although essential for practical ends, is not self-supporting, and how it is that pure science, although one of the best investments that a country can make, is at the same time perpetually short of money.

The trouble is that it is, as business investments go, a little slow in maturing, and also that the financial benefits cannot usually come directly to those practising or supporting it. Copernicus could not patent the discovery of the motion of the earth round the sun, nor could Newton sell the law of gravitation, yet, in the long run, their work was immensely valuable.

It enabled more accurate predictions to be made of the positions of the sun, moon and stars, and thus made the navigation of ships more certain. Once the motions of the heavenly bodies were understood it became a matter of applied science to make the best use of this knowledge, and this applied knowledge was saleable.

During the eighteenth century a much increased demand for instruments for navigation grew up, based on the new methods and depending on the astronomical discoveries of the two preceding centuries. The Government offered a £ 30,000 prize for a clock that would keep time on board a ship and firms of instrument-makers set up in business to supply this and other wants of sailors. As some of these firms still exist we may suppose that they have found the making of sextants and chronometers profitable.

INCREASING COSTS

From this one would expect that pure science would flourished only in a fairly prosperous country—in a country, that is, that can afford to lay aside a certain proportion of its resources each year and use it for work that will not bear fruit for a number of years, and much of which apparently will never be of any use at all.

Until recently this laying aside was done largely through private benefactions to universities. However, as the simpler parts of science get worked out and attention is directed to more and more deeply-lying parts, the complexity of the equipment required gets greater and the cost increases. The giant telescope that is to be erected on Mount Palomar in California will cost over one million pounds, and the atom-splitting cyclotron at the California Institute of Technology costs several hundred thousand pounds.

These are sums that are, except in occasional instances, beyond the reach of private benefactions, and progress in science has therefore come to depend more and more on assistance from government grants derived from taxation. This raises difficult questions of how to retain the traditional and necessary freedom and independence in the development of science, and at the same time secure efficient administration in the spending of large sums of public money.

I have discussed the contribution of pure science to practical affairs and to industrial development: now I want to deal with the reverse connexion. Most advances in pure science depend on new methods of doing things, and these new methods are provided by advances in applied science. There is thus a kind of alternation between pure and applied science, each depending on the other for its advances.

For example, a hundred years ago the simplest electrical experiments were very difficult to carry out, because of the absence of elementary requirements like insulated wire. Faraday in his diary describes how he wound his magnets with milliner's iron wire which was, and for all I know still is, used for stiffening ladies' hats. The insulation was provided by winding string between the turns of the wire. As I have explained, these experiments of Faraday's led in the course of fifty years to the electrical industry.

With the development of that industry things like insulated wire, magnets, dynamos, motors and accumulators became common places to be bought in a shop. This immeasurably simplified all experiments involving electricity and rendered possible the fundamental researches of J. J. Thomson, and others which led to the discovery of the electron. These experiments of J. J. Thomson in turn led to the invention of the wireless valve which has itself laid the foundations of the great and expanding radio industry.

FROM DISCOVERING TO DISCOVERY

This industry has made valves a common place in the same way that earlier electrical developments provided lamps and motors for all. This plentiful supply of valves has made possible the experiments of the last fifteen years on the structure of the atom and has led to an enormous increase in our knowledge of how atoms work.

It is possible that this knowledge will find some quite unexpected application and be the key to the growth of some industry which will in its turn make easier a new attack on yet more fundamental properties of matter.

A scientific discovery is not a thing in itself which develops separately from the rest of the life of the country; it depends very intimately on the wants and habits of ordinary people, on the kind of government they have, and on the educational and financial system they support or tolerate. We of this generation are no more intelligent than our ancestors, but we have learned more about nature in fifty years than was learnt in the first fifteen hundred years of our era. To state precisely what are the conditions for a healthy development of science is difficult; the conditions that give that combination of curiosity, self-confidence and patience that make a scientist are subtle and elusive, but it is at least certain that practical discoveries do not happen of themselves; they depend on threads running right through the fabric of the country's life.

—*The Listener* (London).

(*Continued from page* 15.)

League failed, not because its design was wrong. It was, to the first approximation, a very possible design for such an organization. Every one of Mr. Hull's six postulates is essential. Taken all together, they are sufficient.

The League—I watched it closely from its foundation to its ultimate failure—failed, not because it was based on wrong postulates, not because there was anything seriously wrong in the drafting of the Covenant. It failed because, from start to finish, the member States did not take it seriously as an instrument for preserving, and indeed compelling, peace. Moreover it lacked the powerful and active support of the United States, which remained outside its membership. Whenever an occasion arose, from the "Corfu incident" onward, the dominant idea was not how to use the machinery of the League but how to avoid using it.

There was only one exception to this—the imposition of sanctions on Italy in 1935. It was an exception which decisively proved the rule. For, from the moment sanctions were decreed in principle, everything possible was done to avoid the final responsibility which that decision involved. Sanctions were carefully limited to the point of inefficacy, and then withdrawn. The machinery was there, but the Governments refused to use it.

If the new machinery is to work, though the old one failed, it will be because there is this time in all member States, great or small, the will to make it work. I think that will now exists.

PRISONERS OF WAR—WANT MORE LETTERS FROM HOME

Many appeals, often numbering hundreds, are received every month from prisoners of war by District Soldiers' Boards in Southern India. Most of these say that the man has not heard from his relations for many months and he asks whether enquiries can be made to ascertain whether his people are still well.

Wherever possible the local Board contacts the family and appeals to them to correspond regularly with the man.

Perhaps some readers of this paper have sons, brothers or fathers who are now prisoners of war in the Far East, Italy or Germany. If so, they are asked to write at least twice a month. The letter must be in English and the local representative of the District Soldiers' Board will transcribe the letter if the man's family cannot write English.

In the case of prisoners of war in Japanese hands not more than twenty five words may be written and the words must be in block capitals or typewritten.

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

26TH APR.—His Majesty the King received Mr. Churchill in audience twice to-day.

Mr. Churchill stated in the Commons that "Government have decided to make certain increases in the pay and allowances of members of the forces and their families."

There was slight enemy air activity over England last night. Four German aircraft were destroyed.

Cologne and Brunswick were battered by the Allied planes.

27TH APR.—Allied bombers attacked Essen, Brunswick and other places in Germany.

Von Papen, German Ambassador to Turkey, has arrived in Germany.

The United States War Secretary, Mr. Henry Stimson, stated that the Germans were probably hoarding some of their air reserves for the time when an extreme emergency existed.

There was slight enemy air activity over Britain.

It is revealed that His Majesty the King spent another day with Invasion troops to-day, his second visit to the Second Front forces in Britain in three days.

28TH APR.—About 1,000 R.A.F. bombers attacked Friedrichsafen, Stuttgart and other places in Germany.

A small number of German aircraft attempted to raid south coast of England.

29TH APR.—Berlin was heavily bombed by the Allies.

30TH APR.—A small number of enemy aircraft raided some places in south-west England.

1ST MAY.—Mr. Churchill presided at the first meeting of the Empire Prime Ministers.

It is stated that the Allies are preparing to launch a three-pronged attack on Germany from Russia, Britain and the Mediterranean.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

26TH APR.—Mr. Leo T. Crowley, the United States Foreign Economic Administrator, issued a report on Lease-Lend Aid. The Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate voted to approve the Bill to extend Lend-Lease for another year.

27TH APR.—The United States Secretary for War, Mr. H. Stimson, announced that the total United States army casualties is 148,425 of which 25,582 were killed.

28TH APR.—Colonel Frank Knox, Secretary of the United States Navy, died this afternoon.

1ST MAY.—Construction of additional landing craft for invasion operations costing 585 crores of rupees was authorized on Monday in United States.

INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

26TH APR.—To-day's South-East Asia Command Communiqué says that Allied patrols were active around Kohima, and that on April 25th the Allies captured Mapao hill feature north of the Imphal plain.

Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten has sent a message of thanks to General Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief, India.

27TH APR.—There was sporadic fighting on the outskirts of Kohima on April 26th says to-day's Allied communiqué.

A statement on the duties of General Auchinleck was made by Mr. Amery in the Commons to-day.

28TH APR.—Around Kohima the Allies captured enemy positions and destroyed their strong points. In North Burma the Chinese forces have occupied Kauri.

29TH APR.—In Kohima area the liquidation of the remaining enemy strong points continued. A statement of a general nature, regarding the Assam-Burma front is also issued by the South-East Asia Command.

30TH APR.—In Imphal the Allies have advanced and are only five miles from Ukhrul.

1ST MAY.—The British garrison inside Kohima has now expanded its perimeter. The Japanese commander in the face of this threat is trying to concentrate his strength on the town itself.

RUSSIA AND FINLAND

26TH APR.—The Russians have launched an attack along a wide front on the Lower Dniester. South of Tighina and Dubasari violent fighting is in progress.

Major-General D. T. C. Cowan, D.S.O., M.C., the Commander of the 17th Indian Division, is wearing cap, seen with some of his staff in Burma.

FOR YOUR RADIO DIARY

MAY 6.—DELHI—8-30 a.m. A Trip into Arakan—By Captain F. C. de Paula.

" 6.—DELHI—9-45 p.m. Famous Indian Regiments: 10th Baluch Regiment—By Lieut.-Col. W. E. Maxwell.

" 6.—BOMBAY—8-15 p.m. War Commentary.

" 7.—LAHORE—9-45 p.m. Any Questions on Japan?

" 7.—LUCKNOW—9-45 p.m. Mile Stones of Victory: Combined Operations in Tunisia.

" 8.—DELHI—9-45 p.m. Problems of the New India: Social Security.

" 8.—MADRAS—9-0 p.m. Radio Blitzkrieg: Analysis of Axis Propaganda—By Achuthan Nair.

" 9.—CALCUTTA—9-0 p.m. Know Thy Enemy: The Japanese Navy.

" 9.—LUCKNOW—9-45 p.m. The Setting Sun: Analysis of Japanese Radio Propaganda—By S. Mahmuduzzafar.

" 10.—DELHI—9-45 p.m. The Voice of America.

" 10.—LAHORE—8-45 p.m. British Democracy at Work: Improvements in Education—By A. E. Foot.

" 11.—LAHORE—9-45 p.m. The Balkan Cauldron: Under the Nazi Heel—By P. N. Kirnal.

" 11.—MADRAS—9 p.m. The Common Cause.

" 12.—DELHI—9-45 p.m. World Affairs—By Wickham Steed.

" 13.—BOMBAY—8-15 p.m. War Commentary.

" 13.—LAHORE—9-45 p.m. To-morrow Always Comes: International Trade—By the Hon'ble Sir Manohar Lal.

27TH APR.—A new Russian offensive north of Jassy is reported.

28TH APR.—Soviet troops have crossed the river Pruth in a new sector below Jassy.

29TH APR.—Widespread air attacks on enemy positions continue.

30TH APR.—The Deputy Commissioner of Foreign Affairs, M. Andre Vyshinsky, made a statement on Soviet-Czeck relations in the event of Red Army troops entering Czech territory.

* * *

ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

26TH APR.—The Allies continue to improve their positions on the Fifth Army Allied bridgehead. On other fronts activity was limited to patrolling on both sides, resulting in several minor engagements.

27TH APR.—Rain and mist prevented operations on a large scale.

1ST MAY.—All the Italian battle fronts continue quiet except for active patrolling and artillery exchanges.

It is announced that British submarines continuing to harass German shipping in the Mediterranean and the Aegean, have sunk two supply ships, 20 small ships during recent patrols. Seven other ships and one supply vessel were damaged.

* * *

VICHY, FREE FRANCE AND THE OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

26TH APR.—Allied aircraft attacked military objectives in France including Aachen.

27TH APR.—The Allied planes bombed military objectives in North France.

Marshal Tito's forces captured the large Adriatic island Korcula.

28TH APR.—Allied bombers attacked Avord and other places, in France including Paris. Marshal Petain has issued a warning to his countrymen.

30TH APR.—Lyons and Clermont were bombed by Allied planes.

1ST MAY.—Last night Allied bombers attacked Maintenon, Acheras, Somain and other places in France.

A mission sent by Marshal Tito has reached London.

* * *

THE NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

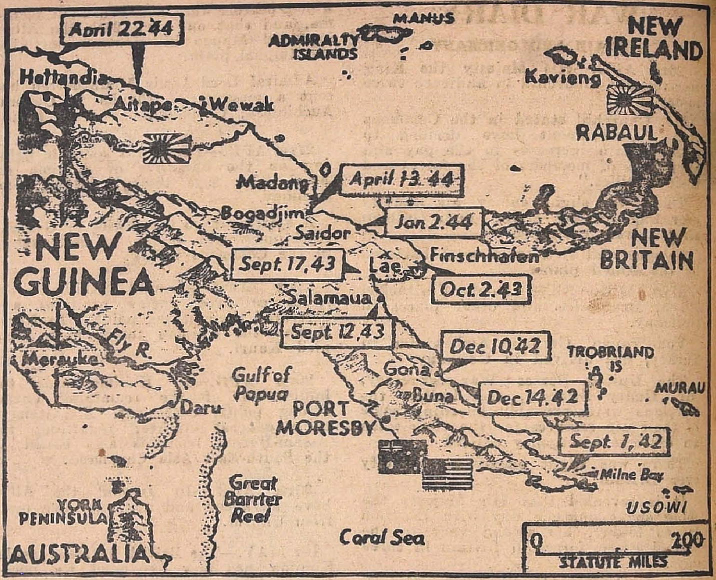
26TH APR.—The British Military Mission to Turkey has arrived back in Ankara and has resumed conversations with representatives of the Turkish Government.

* * *

THE FAR EAST

26TH APR.—It is announced that Aitape perimeter in north-east New Guinea has been cleared of the Japanese.

27TH APR.—The Allies have occupied *Madang* and captured the airfields of Cyclops and Sentani in the Hollandia area. It is disclosed that General Douglas MacArthur, Commander-in-Chief of the South-west Pacific area and Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief, United States Pacific Fleet and the Pacific Ocean areas recently conferred regarding the future operations in the Pacific of the two Commands.



The above map shows the steady progress which the Allies have made towards the recapture of New Guinea. Dates in boxes indicate Allied landings on this important island since September 1942. The most recent assault was April 22. American troops landed on both sides of Hollandia and, at last reports, had captured Hollandia Township and were within five miles of Hollandia Airfield.

28TH APR.—The main Hollandia airfield and Alexishafen have been captured by the Allies.

"American Air Forces in the Pacific have now reached the point where 1,000-plane raids are possible" said the United States Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Gates.

29TH APR.—Carolines were bombed by the Allied planes.

30TH APR.—Wewak was heavily raided by United States bombers.

1ST MAY.—Schouten Islands, off the north-eastern New Guinea, Rabaul, Wewak, Wake Island, Bougainville, Sorong (Dutch New Guinea) were attacked by Allied aircraft.

MADRAS HAWK-EYED PILOT

Flying Officer Masilamani, a young I.A.F. fighter reconnaissance pilot from Madras, is credited with powers of seeing miles ahead of and long before any of his fellow-pilots on his Squadron. His keen observation usually enables him to return with invaluable information for the Army. With his large bright eyes, he is quick in detecting camouflaged targets. His Squadron is called the "eyes" of the army; he is, undoubtedly, the "eyes" of his Squadron.

LAST MONTH. . .

2ND APR.—Russian forces enter Rumania.

6TH APR.—The Red Army captures Skala.

10TH APR.—Soviet troops capture Odessa.

11TH APR.—The Russian Army captures Kerch.

14TH APR.—The Russian forces capture Tarnopol.

15TH APR.—General Vatutin is dead.

15TH APR.—Americans capture Bogadjim in New Guinea.

16TH APR.—Lord Mountbatten changes his headquarters to Ceylon.

20TH APR.—Defenders of Kohima get relief.

25TH APR.—Allies capture Mapao hill feature, north of Imphal.

27TH APR.—Allies occupy Madang in New Guinea.

28TH APR.—Colonel Knox, United States Navy Secretary, is dead.

28TH APR.—Around Kohima Allies capture enemy positions.

30TH APR.—Allies are five miles from Ukhrul.

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